

*Location:* Middle School Gymnasium, State Route 126 (near Water Street), Gardiner, Maine, (207) 582-1326.

The purpose of the scoping meeting is to obtain additional input from state and local governments and from the public, especially about the Northern Alternative. See the map in Appendix 2. Federal agencies have formal channels for input into the Federal process (including separate meetings where appropriate) on an interagency basis. Federal agencies are expected to transmit their comments directly to the FERC and not use the scoping meetings for this purpose. Local agencies are requested to provide information on other plans and projects which might conflict with, or have cumulative effects, when considered in combination with the Maritimes Phase II Project.

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and present oral comments on the environmental issues which they believe should be addressed in the Draft EIS. A list will be available at the public meetings to allow speakers to sign up. Priority will be given to those persons representing groups. A transcript will be made on the meetings and comments will be used to help determine the scope of the Draft EIS.

#### **Becoming an Intervenor**

In addition to involvement in the EIS scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor". Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents such as data requests and filings by other intervenors. We will provide our EIS to anyone who follows the instructions which appear later in this NOI. Likewise, each intervenor must provide copies of its filings to all other parties. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 3). If you already intervened in this proceeding you do not need to do so again because of the amended routes.

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

#### **Environmental Mailing List**

This notice is being sent to individuals, organizations, and government entities interested and/or potentially affected by the proposed project. To solicit focused comments regarding environmental considerations related to the proposed project and alternatives, it is also being sent to all potential right-of-way grantors (i.e., landowners whose property would be crossed), landowners along the alternative routes, landowners and abutters at the aboveground facility sites, and abutters along powerline rights-of-way that would be used for installation of the pipeline.

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list and receive a copy of our Draft and Final EISs, please return the form in appendix 4. PLEASE NOTE: IF WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU, EITHER BY COMMENT LETTER, RESPONSE TO ONE OF THE TWO NOIs, OR REGISTERING AT THE SCOPING MEETINGS, YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE MAILING LIST. If you have previously provided us with your name and address, you do not need to send in the form in appendix 4.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

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#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-5884-5]

#### **Availability of Guidance for Utilization of Small, Minority and Women's Business Enterprises in Procurement Under Assistance Agreements**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of guidance document.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is announcing the availability of its "Guidance for Utilization of Small, Minority and Women's Business Enterprises in Procurement Under Assistance Agreements—6010 1997 Edition." This document, issued on July 22, 1997, revises previous Agency guidance dated May 1996. EPA prepared the Guidance for use by Agency personnel, State, Tribal and local government officials, and business persons interested in participating in EPA financial assistance programs. The Guidance provides information on the use of Small, Minority and Women's Business Enterprises in procurement under EPA

grants and cooperative agreements. It will assist individuals in their efforts to understand and implement EPA policies codified at 40 CFR part 30.31 and 35 and ensure consistency with the Supreme Court's decision in *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, 115 S. Ct. 2097 (1995).

**ADDRESSES:** An electronic version of the Guidance is accessible on EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization home page on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/osdbu/pubs.htm>. A limited number of paper copies are also available. Requests for a paper copy should be addressed to the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (1230C), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall 2, Room 1110, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rebecca D. Neer, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (1230C), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall 2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, Telephone (703) 305-5030.

Dated: August 22, 1997.

**Peter D. Robertson,**

*Chief of Staff, Office of The Administrator.*

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#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-5884-3]

#### **Variance and Exemption Regulation Stakeholder Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting of interested stakeholders will be held concerning the variance and exemption provisions of the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This meeting will be held on September 16, 1997 from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm, at the Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, Washington, DC 20024.

The purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss the variance and exemption provisions of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments (sections 1415-16) and the requirements for rulemaking to implement these provisions. EPA is soliciting input as to what these regulations should consider and contain. The 1996 SDWA requires that EPA promulgate regulations specifying:

- Procedures to be used by the Administrator or a State to grant or deny variances, including requirements relating to public notification and hearings prior to issuance of a variance;